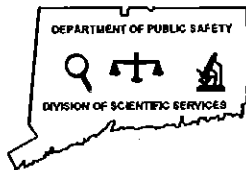




STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

March 16, 2009

Rep. Michael P. Lawlor, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrew J. McDonald, Co-Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

SB 538 AN ACT CONCERNING PLEA AGREEMENTS BY SEXUAL OFFENDERS

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.

The Intent of the sex offender registry is not met if those guilty of crimes requiring registration are allowed to plead guilty to other charges that do not require registration. This bill would deter such plea agreements. It would preclude the court from accepting a plea of guilty or nolo contendere made pursuant to a plea agreement with the state wherein such person, in lieu of pleading to such offense, pleads to an offense that does not require registration, unless the state's attorney states for the record the specific reason for the plea agreement and why registration is not required for public safety.

This bill would prevent sex offenders from avoiding registration and, at the same time, vests appropriate flexibility in the court and the state's attorney.

Sincerely,

John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety